

Chamber may feel as a "voice crying in the wilderness." Representative of so many Americans, personal opinion often seems not to be heard in such a noisy and busy Nation such as ours. So, Lord, grant perseverance and consistency to Your servants who work in government day after day.

When their words seem to fall on desert land, help them to create a pool of conviction with others that the united effort may soon be recognized. When their efforts seem to be blown away by media winds or opinion polls, enable them to go deeper into where their convictions are rooted and affirm the life there.

In the depths where You breathe forth Your spirit, let them hear the echo of Your revelation and give You thanks and praise now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PITTS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3180. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

DEMOCRATS TAKE ACTION ON RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, the American people are looking to Washington for help in reducing prices at the pump. They don't really have a lot of interest in pointing fingers; they just want us to act in a bipartisan fashion to bring these record prices down. But of course that hasn't stopped the oil company executives from pointing fingers, and of course that is what they do. That is all they can do. Anything but let the American people see where the real fault is, with the oil companies.

Last month, nonetheless, Congress acted in a strong bipartisan fashion to pressure the administration to temporarily suspend the filling of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve which experts agree will help drive down gasoline prices. This bipartisan House also overrode the Presidential veto on the new farm bill that makes an historic commitment to more affordable home-grown American biofuel and increased the oversight of commodity futures in order to detect and prevent market manipulation of energy prices.

Mr. Speaker, as this House prepares to debate more energy legislation this week, I hope we can work together to provide some relief at the pump.

ENERGY DEBATE IS NATIONAL SECURITY DEBATE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our energy policy is tied to our national security. When America is increasingly reliant on foreign sources of energy, we are increasingly influenced by foreign governments who may be hostile to our interests.

Too many Democrats in Congress believe the debate over energy independence is simply about the price at the pump. Some want to try to lower the price by socializing the oil industry or taxing American energy resources, neither of which will lower the price. Meanwhile, House Democrats refuse to expand exploration for American oil and natural gas. They fail to acknowledge that until we find affordable, reliable fuel sources to replace oil, our Nation will be reliant on this form of foreign energy.

When we invest in American resources, we not only add more supply to the market that has seen increased demand, we invest in our national security by ensuring more of our oil and natural resources come from right here at home.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11th.

HOLD THIS ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. When the leadership of this House said back in October of 2006 that impeachment is off the table, what they did is they set the stage for the administration ignoring the subpoenas of the Congress for information. Once the administration understood that they did not have to comply with the law and that Congress essentially took away the one power that Congress has to compel the administration to respect Congress as a coequal branch of government, once that was taken away, the administration basically just decided it wasn't going to appear in front of Congress to answer questions, they wouldn't produce documents or papers that were relevant to congressional investigations.

Congress is a coequal branch of government. It is urgent that we reestablish our coequality, that we create conditions of a check and balance of administrative abuse of power. This isn't a Republican matter, it is not a Democratic matter, it is a matter for our country. We need to have the Congress be strong. We need to hold this administration accountable.

PUBLIC FEELS REPORTERS ARE BIASED

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a new survey has found that 68 percent of all voters believe that reporters try to help their favorite candidate win elections. Just 17 percent believe that reporters offer unbiased coverage of election campaigns. And by more than a 3-1 margin, voters believe the media is behind Senator BARACK OBAMA rather than Senator JOHN MCCAIN.

The survey also found that 76 percent of voters believe the media have too much power and too much influence over elections. And skepticism about the media cuts across income, racial, gender, and age demographics.

Americans are right to be skeptical, and should brace themselves for the most one-sided coverage of a Presidential race that we have ever seen. We need to encourage the media to adhere to the highest standards of their profession. Only then can we restore Americans' faith in news reporting.

ENERGY FACTS VERSUS ENERGY FICTION

(Mr. ISRAEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I inaugurate energy facts versus energy fiction. Today's fact:

In the spring of 2001, Vice President CHENEY met with oil industry executives to develop a national energy policy. Then, before their policy was enacted the average price of a barrel of

oil was about \$23. This morning, the price of a barrel of oil is almost \$138. The policy did not work.

Then, before their policy was enacted, the average price of a gallon of gas was about \$1.46. This morning, at the Commack Mobil station in my district, the price of a gallon of regular gas is almost \$4.29, almost tripled. The policy did not work.

I am not saying that anybody is committing wrongdoing. I am just saying that people have pursued policies that have not worked.

Today we will try again to get to the President's desk Congressman BART STUPAK's anti-price gouging bill. Today we present another solution, a different idea, a better way to bring down gas prices. I urge my colleagues to support it on a bipartisan basis, I urge the other body to support it, get it to the President's desk, and let's start protecting pocketbooks rather than oil company profits.

GUANTANAMO HISTORY LESSON

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in light of last week's Supreme Court decision giving enemy terrorist detainees at Guantanamo habeas corpus rights, I thought I would offer a brief history lesson as described by my friend Gary Bauer.

On June 13, 1942, four armed German spies came ashore on the beaches of Long Island, New York. Four days later, four more spies came ashore at Jacksonville, Florida. All were sent to sabotage American defense sites. All eight were quickly captured, tried by military tribunal, not civilian courts. Less than a month later, their cases began, and by August 4, all were convicted.

Sixty-six years later, almost to the day, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision declared that foreign terrorists captured on foreign soil possess more rights under our Constitution than those Nazi spies sent here to ambush our domestic defenses.

I believe history will no doubt judge that this flawed Supreme Court decision has left the United States less safe as a result.

RECORD HIGH GAS PRICES AT THE PUMP

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple months, House Democrats have been working with real solutions to lower pump prices for the American people, smart legislation that invests in renewable energy and temporarily halted the sending of oil to the Strategic Petroleum Oil Reserve.

This week, we will continue with real solutions to give relief to people across

this country. We will consider legislation today to prevent price gouging by unscrupulous companies. Later in the week, we plan to take up a bill that will tighten the Enron loophole that allows speculators in the dark markets in places like Dubai to drive up oil prices without having any oversight. Rampant speculation is estimated by most economists to be driving up oil \$30 a barrel.

And on Thursday, the House will consider legislation that tells Big Oil to either use it or lose it. This bill would bar oil companies from this fictionist red herring of saying they need more land. They have 68 million acres of the public land that they are choosing not to drill on even though oil is under it. These bills deserve and need to have bipartisan support to truly help the American people.

NO MORE EXCUSES

(Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I stand to talk to the American people today. The American people are hurting. Young families are hurting, senior adults are hurting, those that are on fixed incomes are hurting, small businesses are hurting, all because we don't have an energy policy that actually includes energy. Let me tell you about one such person.

Over the weekend I met with a young family. The gentleman's name was Vern Long from Jefferson City, Tennessee. Vern told me he makes \$8 an hour. He has to drive to work to Knoxville, Tennessee. It costs him \$90 a week to drive to work. Vern told me that he may not be able to continue working; he may have to go on welfare, because we don't have an energy policy that has American energy.

This has to stop. It is time for no more excuses. Vern doesn't want to go on welfare. Vern is a United States veteran. He spent time in Iraq. We owe people like Vern Long a better future for he and his family. We need an energy policy that uses American energy now.

No more excuses. It is time for us to pass a policy where we drill for American oil, natural gas, and use clean coal technology. The time is now. No more excuses.

BIG OIL DOES NOT NEED MORE LAND TO LEASE TO DRILL DOMESTICALLY—THEY SHOULD USE IT OR LOSE IT

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, American families and businesses are indeed reeling from record gas prices, the results of 7 years of missed opportunities and a 19th century energy policy this White House has allowed oil

companies to write. President Bush's policy is only working for one group, the oil companies themselves.

Rather than looking for new solutions, Washington Republicans say that Big Oil needs access to more land and more water so they can drill for more oil. What my friends across the aisle refuse to acknowledge is that 68 million acres of oil reserves on 10,000 separate leases are already acquired by the oil companies for development and are ready for the drill bit to go into the ground. Permitting has been finished, and the oil companies are holding off.

Why are they holding off drilling on these 68 million acres of reserves? If they are really interested in drilling more at home, let's have them do that first before we give them access to the Alaskan Wildlife Refuge or our Atlantic and Pacific coasts. All they need to do is drill is on these 68 million acres they have already acquired. If they don't, I believe they should use it or lose it.

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HIGH GAS PRICES ROUND II

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to drive home the fact that the U.S. needs an energy policy now.

In my home State of Alabama, gas prices have risen over 10 cents a gallon in the last 2 weeks. This just can't continue. Not only does this affect how much folks can afford to drive, but it also raises the prices on everyday necessities like food and clothing. Congress needs to act now.

Increased domestic energy exploration is part of the solution, but Congress also must invest heavily in home-grown biofuels and bioenergy.

Imagine pulling up to the service stations of the future, and you can see all sorts of fuels—hydrogen, natural gas, ethanol, and biodiesel. But we won't get there without strong support from Congress now. The same holds true for initiatives like solar and wind power. No one fuel will power our future, but we all know that Congress must do whatever it takes to help get us there now.

So let's act now to make our country energy independent. Let's pass a bill to open ANWR and the Outer Continental Shelf, and let's invest heavily in alternative fuels and new technology to increase efficiency and conservation.

TROOPS AND VETERANS FIRST IN GI BILL

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Mr. Speaker, last weekend marked the 64th anniversary of the signing of the original GI bill by President Franklin Roosevelt, which